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RETAIL PRICES AND BASIC WAGE RATES - MARCH QUARTER 1967

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of privately owned and government owned houses, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is year 1952-53 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

MARCH QUARTER 1967

There was an increase of 0.6 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from December quarter 1966 to March quarter 1967. The index number for All Groups rose from 143.6 to 144.4. For the twelve months ended March 1967, the All Groups increase was 2.1 per cent.

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between December quarter 1966 and March quarter 1967 is shown below.

Food Group

The Food Group of the index, which increased from 152.8 to 154.3, accounted for over half of the quarterly increase in the All Groups index. The increase during the quarter was 1.0 per cent. Price increases were recorded for beef and lamb, bread, eggs, and onions, while a price decrease was recorded for potatoes.

Clothing and Drapery Group

The group index rose 0.3 per cent from 123.4 to 123.8, the chief increase being in piecegoods.

Housing Group

The index rose from 162.5 to 163.2, an increase of 0.4 per cent. The rise was chiefly due to increased costs of home ownership and to increased rents of privately owned houses.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The index showed an increase of 0.3 per cent, from 116.2 to 116.5. The rise in this group was attributable to increases for a number of household items.

Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group showed a rise of 0.3 per cent. The group index rose from 155.5 to 156.0. An increase in motor car registration fees was the main cause of this increase.

The Consumer Price Index increased in all State Capitals from December quarter 1966 to March quarter 1967. Percentage increases were as follows: Hobart, 1.4; Perth, 1.0; Brisbane, 0.6; Adelaide, 0.5; Melbourne, 0.4; and Sydney, 0.1.

Since the base year, 1952-53, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Brisbane and smallest in Sydney. Percentage increases from 1952-53 to March quarter 1967 were as follows: Brisbane, 44.4; Hobart, 42.0; Melbourne, 40.7; Perth, 38.3; Adelaide, 37.2; and Sydney, 36.4. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 38.9 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities, and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE BASIC WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State basic wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate Industrial Authorities from time to time. The last variation made by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was an addition of \$2.00 to the male basic wage, with corresponding adjustments to the female and juvenile rates, and operated from 11 July 1966. An application to vary the basic wage is at present being heard by the Commission.

The Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1961 abolished automatic quarterly reviews of the State basic wage, but the Industrial Commission was empowered to vary the wage after a general hearing on the applications of interested parties. On 1 April 1965 the Commission stated that, as a matter of policy, in future it did not propose to deal with an application to vary the basic wage solely because of a change in the Consumer Price Index unless such change warranted an alteration of 4s (40c) or more in the basic wage. Following a recent hearing, the Commission increased the basic wage by 50 cents for adult males and 35 cents for adult females from 10 April 1967.

Weekly Basic Wage Rates - State Capital Cities

Capital City	Commonwealth Basic Wage			State Basic Wage		
	Males	Females	Date of Operation ^a	Males	Females	Date of Operation
	\$	\$		\$	\$	
Brisbane ..	31.00	23.25	11.7.66	33.20	24.90	10.4.67
Sydney ..	33.50	25.10	11.7.66	33.50	25.10	11.7.66a
Melbourne ..	32.70	24.50	11.7.66	32.70	24.50	July 1966b
Adelaide ..	32.30	24.20	11.7.66	32.30	24.20	11.7.66a
Perth ..	32.80	24.60	11.7.66	33.50	25.13	24.10.66
Hobart ..	33.40	25.05	11.7.66	33.40	25.05	July 1966b

a From the first pay period commencing on or after the date shown.

b Most Wages Boards adopted the Commonwealth rate during July 1966.

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Table 1 - Consumer Price Index - Total and Group Indexes - Brisbane
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>						
1956-57 ..	111.5	104.7	118.4	106.5	118.9	112.0
1957-58 ..	113.0	107.8	123.9	108.3	120.5	114.4
1958-59 ..	119.8	109.4	128.4	109.0	123.6	118.2
1959-60 ..	124.2	111.9	132.6	110.6	125.6	121.2
1960-61 ..	130.4	115.1	137.6	111.3	129.5	125.4
1961-62 ..	130.8	116.7	140.5	113.0	133.3	127.3
1962-63 ..	129.8	117.0	144.0	112.8	134.4	127.7
1963-64 ..	133.1	117.8	145.2	111.7	135.2	129.0
1964-65 ..	141.5	119.5	149.0	112.7	140.9	133.9
1965-66 ..	150.9	121.0	158.3	115.0	148.7	140.4
<u>Quarter</u>						
1966: March ..	151.7	120.9	158.8	115.1	152.0	141.4
June ..	151.1	122.2	159.7	116.1	152.0	141.7
September	151.0	122.4	161.1	116.0	154.7	142.5
December	152.8	123.4	162.5	116.2	155.5	143.6
1967: March ..	154.3	123.8	163.2	116.5	156.0	144.4
Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) on Previous Quarter						
<u>Quarter</u>						
1966: March ..	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	2.8	1.0
June ..	-0.4	1.1	0.6	0.9	-	0.2
September	-0.1	0.2	0.9	-0.1	1.8	0.6
December	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.8
1967: March ..	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6

Table 2 - Consumer Price Index - State Capital Cities
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average Six State Capitals
<u>Year</u>							
1956-57 ..	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.1
1957-58 ..	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1958-59 ..	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1959-60 ..	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1960-61 ..	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1961-62 ..	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
1962-63 ..	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	124.5
1963-64 ..	124.5	127.1	129.0	123.5	123.8	129.4	125.7
1964-65 ..	128.8	132.2	133.9	128.6	127.6	133.6	130.4
1965-66 ..	133.1	137.1	140.4	132.7	132.5	138.3	135.2
<u>Quarter</u>							
1966: March ..	133.3	137.2	141.4	133.1	132.8	138.1	135.4
June ..	134.0	138.5	141.7	134.4	135.3	139.3	136.5
September	134.7	139.1	142.5	135.0	136.3	139.2	137.1
December	136.2	140.1	143.6	136.5	136.9	140.1	138.4
1967: March ..	136.4	140.7	144.4	137.2	138.3	142.0	138.9

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices - Food and Grocery Items - Brisbane

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1966	January 1967	February 1967	March 1967
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>Groceries etc.</u>					
Bread, white (unwrapped & delivered)	2 lb loaf	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
Flour, plain ..	2 lb pkt	12.7	12.8	13.0	13.2
Flour, self-raising ..	2 lb pkt	15.6	15.7	15.9	16.1
Tea ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	30.9	31.0	31.0	31.0
Coffee, instant ..	2 oz jar	44.6	45.9	45.6	44.4
Cocoa ..	8 oz pkt	31.5	31.9	31.8	32.0
Sugar ..	4 lb pkt	37.3	37.7	37.7	37.7
Rice ..	1 lb pkt	13.1	13.4	12.8	13.4
Jam, plum ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin	24.2	23.6	24.5	24.5
Jam, marmalade ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin	26.7	27.5	27.1	27.6
Honey, liquid ..	16 oz jar	27.0	26.8	27.4	27.6
Oats, rolled ..	2 lb pkt	38.2	39.3	39.3	38.1
Cornflakes ..	1 lb pkt	34.8	34.9	34.1	34.1
Sultanas ..	1 lb pkt	34.3	34.3	33.9	34.1
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz tin	30.8	29.5	31.3	31.1
Pears, canned ..	29 oz tin	30.7	29.5	31.3	31.1
Sardines, Norwegian ..	$3\frac{3}{4}$ oz tin	15.7	15.8	16.0	16.1
Salmon, local ..	16 oz tin	41.2	42.2	42.2	42.3
Camp Pie ..	12 oz tin	20.0	20.0	20.2	20.4
Potatoes ..	7 lb	38.6	38.0	36.8	40.4
Onions ..	1 lb	9.6	6.5	6.7	7.8
Soap, laundry ..	20 oz pkt	33.8	33.6	34.0	32.7
Vegemite ..	4 oz jar	26.9	27.4	27.4	26.9
Baby Food, canned ..	$4\frac{1}{2}$ oz tin	8.8	8.8	9.2	9.1
Peanut Paste ..	4 oz jar	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3
Peas, green, canned ..	$15\frac{1}{2}$ oz tin	23.0	23.5	24.0	22.8
Peas, frozen ..	10 oz pkt	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5
Beans, baked, canned ..	16 oz tin	17.2	17.5	15.9	17.4
Spaghetti, canned ..	16 oz tin	17.2	17.5	15.9	17.4
Soup, tomato ..	16 oz tin	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
Sauce, tomato ..	10 oz bottle	22.7	21.7	22.4	22.7
Pickles, mustard ..	10 oz jar	24.1	24.2	24.2	24.2
Biscuits, wheatmeal ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	15.0	16.0	15.1	15.4
Biscuits, milk arrowroot ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	15.9	16.7	15.9	17.0
Biscuits, dry ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	16.5	17.8	16.3	17.8
Margarine, table ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	19.0	19.1	19.1	19.1
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Butter ..	1 lb	50.9	51.1	51.1	51.1
Cheese, cheddar, matured ..	8 oz pkt	30.0	32.4	32.4	32.5
Cheese, cheddar, processed ..	8 oz pkt	23.8	25.4	25.3	26.0
Eggs (24 oz in carton) ..	dozen	63.8	62.3	63.2	63.4
Bacon, rashers, pre-pack ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	49.5	50.1	50.1	50.1
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz tin	20.9	20.2	21.1	21.0
Milk, powdered ..	12 oz tin	37.0	37.3	38.6	38.5
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered)	1 qt	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
<u>Meat</u>			Quarter Ended March 1967		
Beef, Sirloin, roast ..	lb	56.3		57.3	
" , Rib, roast (without bone) ..	lb	48.1		49.8	
" , Steak, rump ..	lb	74.3		76.4	
" , Steak, chuck ..	lb	45.3		47.9	
" , Steak, blade ..	lb	55.8		57.6	
" , Sausages ..	lb	25.6		26.3	
" , Silverside, corned ..	lb	51.2		53.0	
" , Brisket, corned ..	lb	38.8		40.3	
Mutton, leg ..	lb	34.0		35.0	
" , shoulder ..	lb	20.7		21.6	
" , chops, loin ..	lb	33.4		34.5	
" , chops, leg ..	lb	34.3		35.1	
Lamb, leg ..	lb	49.4		50.1	
" , shoulder ..	lb	30.1		30.9	
" , chops, loin ..	lb	51.4		52.1	
" , chops, leg ..	lb	51.0		51.6	
Pork, leg ..	lb	58.9		60.1	
" , loin ..	lb	58.0		59.6	